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Status of OIA Review of North Korean Main-Line Infantry Units*

1. Our review to date of North Korean main-line infantry units shows that there clearly are more divisions and brigades than previously estimated. It is our understanding that the Army's Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) now estimates that there are 39 infantry divisions/brigades present in North Korea, compared to the 27 that were carried by DIA prior to the initiation of the study. Our assessment at this point is generally consistent with that of INSCOM. To date INSCOM has provided us with information for review and validation on 19 main-line infantry units they have identified. On the basis of this information, our conversations with them at the analyst level, and our own independent (but partial) work on forces in the remainder of North Korea, we believe that at most there are 39 infantry divisions/brigades and probably a few less.

2. INSCOM has informed us that they will not be able to provide us with their assessment of the remainder of the units until the first week in November. This delay appears to be due to a reexamination of some units prior to the release of their findings. Based on the amount of time we think it will require us to perform the validation exercise--about four weeks--we project we will not have our final assessment completed before early December.

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